Alumni – what’s in a name?

As you may know the traditional names for graduates can be quite confusing:

- Alumna – one female graduate
- Alumnus – one male graduate
- Alumni – a group of graduates, male or male/female
- Alumnae – a group of female graduates.

We believe that these terms no longer meet the needs of a modern institution and society and it is time to simplify the way we refer to our graduates.

As such we have decided to adopt the Macquarie Dictionary approved Australian terms in all our publications and communications:

- Alumnus – one graduate
- Alumni – a group of graduates

We hope you will approve of this change and quickly become used to these non-gendered and simplified terms. As always, we welcome your feedback at alumni@murdoch.edu.au.

Keep Intouch!

Help us keep in touch with you by making sure your details are up to date. If you have changed your name, employer or contact details let us know by visiting www.murdoch.edu.au/Alumni/

Perhaps you’re still in touch with friends from your Murdoch days who’ve lost touch with us? If so you can visit the same address, scroll down and enter your friends’ details too.
Greetings Alumni

As members of the Murdoch University community, we all have an important and responsible role to exercise within society.

Teaching, learning and research are the traditional core activities of universities, and at Murdoch these are complemented by engagement initiatives that provide impetus and capacity for knowledge production and dissemination. Murdoch faculty members are regular commentators and interlocutors on matters of public concern and debate, and such engagement is considered a scholarly activity.

Community engagement can allow knowledge transfer and exchange on a variety of issues. Such knowledge can drive social cohesion and change, and most importantly, generate knowledgeable debate on significant community issues to help to improve quality of life.

Murdoch is committed to making good use of its knowledge brokerage capacities in collaborative partnerships with local communities, government and industry, regional organisations and international forums.

Murdoch has long been active in societal and community affairs. Such activity has produced both direct and quantifiable economic benefits (e.g. labour market, agricultural science, regional economic growth, medical technologies).

There are also some engagement activities which produce less obvious economic returns, such as environmental sustainability, volunteering, citizen science, animal welfare and social and legal reform.

Of course, the University also benefits enormous from effective engagement with its communities. Its research partnerships, alumni networks, work integrated learning opportunities and teaching enterprise keep the University relevant, contemporary and responsive.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Intouch, which showcases Murdoch intellectual leadership in areas of public interest and concern.

There are some good examples here of how our staff and alumni are working with communities, in a socially responsive way, for mutually productive outcomes.

Best wishes for 2013.

Professor Richard Higgott
Vice Chancellor

From the Manager – Alumni Relations

Welcome to the first edition of Intouch for 2013. This edition highlights the amazing endeavours and contributions that our alumni, staff and students make to public policy, community activities and cultural enrichment.

From working with the internationally renowned TED Organisation, to shaping international public debate on economics, Murdoch University continues to be actively engaged in local, regional and international communities.

We are excited to be offering a diverse calendar of Perth, interstate and international alumni gatherings this year, including literary evenings, reunions and a suite of thought-provoking and challenging public lectures. Remember to give us your most current email address, as all invitations are sent electronically: http://ace.murdoch.edu.au/forms/changeofdetails.html

I am extremely proud to announce that 2013 will see the launch of a new student scholarship, the Alumni Annual Appeal Scholarship. This award, established thanks to the generosity of the Murdoch alumni community over the past three years, will assist final year students in the completion of their studies. You can read more about this fantastic initiative on page 21. We’ll be running our Annual Appeal once again this year, in June, and we hope you will support it.

Finally I’d like to extend warm congratulations to all our new alumni graduating this year. Welcome to Murdoch’s alumni family, I hope that you will play an active role in your alumni association and I look forward to corresponding with you and hopefully meeting you at our future events.

Vanessa Fernandez-Kennedy
Manager – Alumni Relations
Murdoch community building

The Murdoch ethos extends beyond the academic world to engage and build communities locally, nationally and internationally. Being an alumnus means believing in the betterment of the world and applying the talents developed and nurtured by your time on campus to help others.
Graduate devoted to improving his community

JOHN CAREY IS PASSIONATE ABOUT BUILDING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY. HE BELIEVES PEOPLE ARE HAPPIER AND MORE CONTENT WHEN THEY FEEL THAT THEY BELONG AND CARE FOR THEIR FELLOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

The Murdoch University graduate (Bachelor of Communication with Honours (First Class), 1997) is involved in a voluntary capacity with three organisations, two of which he founded. John co-founded the Beaufort Street Network, a non-profit organisation dedicated to making Beaufort Street a better place to live, work and visit.

“*The network is different to other groups in Perth,*” he said. “*It brings residents and local businesses together with the common goal of making the precinct a more vibrant and interesting place.*”

For the past three years, and since its inception, John has been the Chair of the Beaufort Street Festival. The festival celebrates everything special about the street, and attracted about 100,000 people in 2012.

As a Councillor for the City of Vincent, elected in October 2011, he is enthusiastic about the area’s key urban villages, public art and innovative streetscape design.

John also helped to establish the Brain Tumour Association of WA in 2007 after his mother died from the disease. The association provides support and advice to patients and their families.

After graduating, John worked as a journalist and in senior advisory roles for a State Government minister and two premiers.

He is now Manager of the Kimberley Conservation Program and works as an environmental advocate and lobbyist for the Pew Environment Group, focused on securing new conservation measures for the Kimberley region.

Murdoch alumnus brings TEDx to Perth

KAREN DE SAN MIGUEL CONTINUES TO CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST BIG TEDxPERTH CONFERENCE THAT SHE PLAYED AN INTEGRAL PART IN COORDINATING.

Based on the world-wide phenomenon of TED, a non-profit foundation that hosts conferences and talks by top thinkers across all disciplines (originally from the fields of technology, entertainment and design), TEDxPerth was held at the Octagon Theatre in December, 2012.

Fifteen of Perth’s interesting thinkers shared their ‘Ideas Worth Spreading’ with an audience of more than 500 listeners.

Karen took on the voluntary role of Director of Marketing and Communications for TEDxPerth in August 2012.

“I was already a huge fan of TED,” she said. “Over the years I have gained tremendous insights from listening to TED talks. Some of these have absolutely changed my life.

“I hope that the Perth conference inspired everyday Western Australians to think big and aim high, and get excited by new possibilities.”

Karen (Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Media Studies and History, 2004) enjoyed the strong emphasis on social justice and obtaining a global perspective while studying at Murdoch.

“One unit that stood out was Documentary, taught by Associate Professor Martin Mhando,” she said. “Through Martin I learned how filmmaking could change the world for the better.”

After studying, Karen travelled across South-East Asia and Europe, and spent a year teaching English in Japan.

She is employed as a Community Awareness Coordinator at the State Library of Western Australia. Her role involves developing and implementing marketing and communication strategies to raise awareness of library events, exhibitions, programs and collections.
Graduate’s beliefs benefit at-risk teens

GRiffin Longley strongly believes in the power of community. He also believes that all kids, no matter what their background or circumstances, deserve every chance in life.

For the past three years, Griffin has managed Midnight Basketball Midland, a program designed to reconnect at-risk young people with their community, provide them with essential life skills and set them on a positive path.

The former Murdoch student (Bachelor of Arts [Communication Studies], 2000 and Bachelor of Journalism, 2001) and seven other adult carers recently volunteered to accompany a group of teenagers to Singapore to compete in the Asia Pacific Basketball Youth Cup.

“It was a massive undertaking preparing for Singapore,” he said. “Of the original 20 kids selected, only one had a passport and half a dozen had birth certificates. Not only did we have to organise these and the trip, we had to raise the money to do it all.”

The teenagers were required to meet criteria to secure places in the group, including regularly attending training and maintaining an 80 per cent attendance rate at school.

Griffin said the trip broadened the scope of life possibilities for the 12 attendees.

“They all came back twice their size,” he said. “Their confidence and ability to engage with others improved dramatically. They came away with a huge sense of what they could achieve.”

Griffin is the Chief Executive Officer of Nature Play WA, a not-for-profit child institution dedicated to promoting unstructured outdoor play. He also writes a weekly column for The West Australian.

People interested in volunteering for the Midnight Basketball Midland program can access information at www.midnightbasketball.org.au.

Mum’s the word for Murdoch grad

When it comes to community engagement, Dee Havebond (Bachelor of Arts in Communications [Journalism, English, Drama, Design], 1996) has things all sewn up.

After gaining plenty of life experience by travelling and learning at the ‘grass roots’, Dee developed a strategy for mums to create a business from scratch and profit in a way that was sustainable for the family unit, while empowering them by maintaining their sense of purpose.

“The catalyst for this business model was my own business, Sew Funky, which is a vehicle for kids learning how to sew, but more importantly, a place for kids to use their imagination, get creative and have fun in a safe environment,” she said.

“The kids learn that everyone has a story and that you need to be kind to one another.”

Murdoch University was the catalyst for her life adventure.

“It was the first time in my life that I had the courage to pursue what I wanted to do. It required discipline, persistence and resilience,” she said.

After a false start, she left and travelled.

“I realised that I ‘wanted to be something when I grew up’, so I begged to come back and returned with such focus that I was on a mission.

“Drama was the faculty that I was most grateful for, as many teachers helped guide me, challenge me and push me to my limits.

“My drama buddies were the ones who helped to foster an appreciation of the importance of community engagement.”
Outstanding dedication to education, students and community

AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE MOTTO “SERVICE ABOVE SELF” IS WHAT MOTIVATES DONNA MCDONALD TO CONTRIBUTE TO HER COMMUNITY IN ANY WAY SHE CAN.

As Principal of Hamilton Senior High School, she has a strong association with the Kwinana Industries Council and is actively involved in encouraging private and public schools to build relationships with industry to ensure young people are employed locally.

Donna is also the Community Director of the Rotary Club of Cockburn and responsible for linking the club with events and activities that benefit a range of community areas. These include the annual Cockburn Spring Fair, Salvation Army Christmas Appeal, prostate cancer checks, sausage sizzles at community events, tree planting and the Rotary 4 Way Test Speech Contest.

In 1998, while working full-time as a classroom teacher and with four children at home, Donna undertook a Bachelor of Professional Studies (Education) at Murdoch.

“I found my learning at Murdoch fitted well into my busy lifestyle,” she said. “Working with other professional adults was refreshing and stimulating.

“With my fourth year of study in Education completed, I felt better prepared for leadership positions.”

Donna worked in the role of Deputy Principal at Tom Price Senior High School and then Coodanup Community College before taking up the position as Principal of Hedland SHS. She returned to the metropolitan area in 2008 to head Hamilton SHS.

She is excited to be leading the school in its 50th anniversary year in 2013 and says her focus for the next five years is to continue preparing students for real jobs.

Hands on approach to science

SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR MAGDELINE LUM (BACHELOR OF SCIENCE [CHEMISTRY], 2004, GRADUATE DIPLOMA [EXTRACTIVE METALLURGY], 2008) WALKS THE WALK AS MUCH AS SHE TALKS THE TALK.

She was recently in Port Hedland for the Care for Hedland Turtle Monitoring Program, which coincides with the annual flatback sea turtle migration to the coastline for the nesting and hatching seasons.

The creatures have the shortest migratory range of all sea turtles, but there is limited population data available on the species.

Just like her mentoring work at Mount Pleasant Primary School, in conjunction with CSIRO Scientists in Schools, everything is hands on and fully interactive.

It’s the way she likes it.

“It’s pretty much a myth that scientists don’t talk about their work,” she said.

“To do science, it’s not just about working in a laboratory. There is a communication aspect; the two are not mutually exclusive.

“It’s a very unsustainable activity otherwise.”

She loves introducing young minds to astronomy, chemistry, biology, geology, physics and anything science.

“The boundaries are so blurred across disciplines; it’s a disservice to ignore a particular field,” she said.

She has recently given up fly-in, fly-out work as a chemist and metallurgist on a mine site in favour of being a science communicator full-time.

It’s all about her passion for getting the word out about science, whether through freelance writing, her photography, working with children or volunteering at the WA Museum.

“There are lots of avenues for science communication,” she said.
Murdoch lecturer’s ties to successful youth program

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY’S DR DAVE PALMER BELIEVES THE RECENT RECOGNITION OF THE YIRIMAN PROJECT IS TESTAMENT TO THE FORESIGHT AND DETERMINATION OF ELDERS FROM THE WEST KIMBERLEY REGION.

Last October, the innovative youth program received Reconciliation Australia’s 2012 Indigenous Governance Award for being an outstanding example of Indigenous governance in a non-incorporated project.

Dave, who is involved in a three-year participant observation and research study of the program, said the idea for Yiriman was conceived in 2000 by Elders from four Kimberley language groups out of concern for their young people.

“It was set up to encourage back-to-Country trips for young people to hear stories about their ancestors, to hunt, learn about flora and fauna, make artefacts and carry out land-care activities while walking through the country,” he said.

Dave said the project has played a significant role in reducing youth suicide, self-harm, drug use and anti-social and criminal behaviours.

“The Yiriman Project is a great Australian story of tenacity, courage and care across the generations,” he said.

“It is a story of Indigenous communities in the Kimberley coming together to heal Country, community and young people.

“I feel very fortunate to be able to travel along with and learn from this work.”

Dave (Master of Philosophy [Sociology], 1995, PhD, 2000) works at Murdoch as a Senior Lecturer in Community Development.

His other community-based project research includes conservation work with Indigenous groups in the West Pilbara, evaluating Mission Australia’s Pilbara programs and reviewing the Voices of the Wheatbelt project.

Fun run organiser targets community fitness

A BURNING DESIRE TO ADD FITNESS AND FUN TO THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIVING IN HER COMMUNITY LED ANDREA MYERS TO ORGANISE THE INAUGURAL ACT BELONG COMMIT TAMMIN TO CUNDERDIN ADVENTURE RUN AND TEN TINY THINGS WALK.

More than 100 people took part in the event over four different distances on December 30, 2012. The 25km run started in Tammin and finished at the Cunderdin Pool, where participants enjoyed a swim, barbecue and live entertainment.

Andrea, who lives in Quairading, strives to keep physically and mentally active to help combat the effects of bipolar disorder.

She runs her own fitness business and works as a trainer, lifeguard and face painter, and has dedicated much of her time during the past six months to managing the run.

“I wanted to organise an event that offered physical fitness goals for community members to work towards, and I wanted them to feel proud of their achievements,” Andrea said.

“I also wanted to raise community awareness of ways to stay mentally healthy and prevent suicide.”

The Murdoch University graduate (Bachelor of Arts [Media Studies and English and Creative Arts], 2007, and Bachelor of Education [Primary], 2009) describes her time studying as inspiring.

“I felt really supported to research and follow my own ideas, and create work of an exceptionally high standard,” she said.

Since studying at Murdoch, the motivated mother of two children has worked as a primary school music teacher, homeschooled her oldest daughter and completed further studies to enable her to work in the fields of childcare, fitness training and triathlon coaching.
Over the past few decades, Murdoch University has created a new generation of leaders, innovative thinkers and problem solvers. These alumni have gone on to unravel some of the complexities of public policy and international affairs around the world.

Ground-breaking role for world affairs expert

Recognised leader in world affairs Professor Amitav Acharya has been elected to the position of President of the International Studies Association (ISA) for 2014/15.

The ISA is the most widely known professional association for scholars of international studies. Amitav is the first academic from a non-Western background to be appointed to the lead role in the association’s half-century history.

“It is a singular honour and a great responsibility,” he said.

“The field is dominated by Western ideas, institutions and networks.

“In my writings and networking to date, I have promoted greater diversity in the field. Now I can lead the association to further that goal.”

Amitav (PhD [International Relations], 1987) said he could fill a book with fond memories of his time studying at Murdoch University.

After relocating from Delhi to Perth when he was 20 to study – his first trip overseas and first time on a plane – Murdoch became a ‘comfortable home’ for Amitav.

His most treasured memories are of his teachers (particularly of his thesis supervisor, Richard Higgott, who Amitav describes as ‘the single, most positive and exciting influence’ on his academic career), fellow students and roommates from a shared house in Coolbellup, some of whom have become his closest friends.

After holding teaching and research posts on five continents, Amitav currently works as Professor of International Relations at American University, Washington DC.

He is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Chair in Transnational Challenges and Governance and has published 25 books and more than 200 articles.

Amitav was the 2011 winner of The Murdoch University Distinguished Alumni Award (Arts, Education and Creative Media).
Murdoch ties remain steadfast for world-class researcher

Despite living half a world away, Professor Kevin Hewison feels he never left Murdoch University.

His association with the University began in 1978 while studying fourth-year Honours in South-East Asian Studies. He completed a PhD within the School of Human Communication in 1984.

“It was a fabulous time to be at Murdoch,” Kevin said. “It was a new university with a highly committed faculty.

“Many of them were beginning their academic careers, and as a doctoral student, I felt that I was collaborating with faculty as a colleague rather than as a student.”

More than three decades later, the world-class researcher remains in close contact with former classmates and teachers, many of whom currently work at Murdoch.

After holding academic posts at Murdoch, the Australian National University and universities around the globe, Kevin is now a Professor and teaches in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA), where he is also the Director of the Carolina Asia Center.

Kevin’s academic career reached its high point in 2012, when the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill recognised his outstanding research, creativity and teaching by awarding him the title of Weldon E. Thornton Distinguished Professor of Asian Studies.

Kevin has authored more than 190 publications on South-East Asia, democratisation, globalisation and more recently human rights.

“My research on Thailand has attempted to enhance international understanding of the Thai people’s ongoing struggle for democracy in a society dominated by hierarchical institutions,” he said.

In 2013, Kevin will take over the role of Director of Murdoch’s Asia Research Centre.

Passion for international politics discovered at Murdoch

While studying Psychology at Murdoch University in the mid 1980s, Mark took an introductory unit in Social and Political Theory, which got him hooked.

Mark graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Politics) in 1987 and returned in 1992 to undertake a PhD.

“Doing my PhD was a big deal, even though I didn’t expect to get a job from it,” he said. “It was the first time I started to take myself and my work a bit more seriously.

“I’ve still got friends and colleagues from this period, including my then supervisor, Professor Garry Rodan.”

Mark lectured at Griffith University, the University of Queensland and the University of York (UK) before taking the role of Professor of International Politics and Head of Department at the University of Birmingham.

Now a Winthrop Professor in Political Science and International Relations at the University of Western Australia, Mark’s research no longer focuses solely on political-economy.

“I write about security issues, geopolitics and just about every aspect of international relations in the Asia-Pacific region,” he said.

Mark has recently collaborated with University of Queensland researchers and Australia’s leading experts on the politics of climate change.

He is on sabbatical for 2013 and plans to finish a second edition of his book, Regionalism and Globalisation in East Asia: Politics, Security and Economic Development.

Recent national recognition for celebrated researcher

Professor Diane Stone has received significant recognition and many professional accolades during her 20-year career as a teacher, researcher, administrator and educational innovator.

Her most recent plaudit came in 2012 when she was made a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

Diane graduated from Murdoch University in 1987 (Bachelor of Arts [Hons] with a double major in Asian Studies and Social and Political Theory) and after her MA received her PhD from the Australian National University in 1994.

After holding teaching and research appointments at Murdoch and Manchester Metropolitan University, she joined the University of Warwick (UK) and was made Professor.

Currently a Winthrop Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at the University of Western Australia, Diane also holds the positions of Professor at Warwick (permanent position) and Foundation Professor of Public Policy at the Central European University (Hungary).

She believes it is her ground-breaking research on think tanks that has had the greatest impact on society.

“I worked briefly at the World Bank as a result of having done research on think tanks,” she said.

“My work helped the bank launch the Global Development Network (GDN), and subsequently I became a member of the GDN Governing Body.”

Diane is currently researching global public policy and transnational administration, policy networks and international philanthropy.

She has published six books and more than 80 chapters and articles in peer-reviewed journals. Her latest book, Global Agora: Knowledge Actors and Transnational Networks, will be published this year.
Studying at Murdoch a life-changing experience

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED SCHOLAR PROFESSOR TOBY MILLER SPEAKS UNEQUIVOCALLY ABOUT HIS TIME STUDYING AT MURDOCH UNIVERSITY, STATING: “MURDOCH CHANGED MY LIFE.”

“I arrived in the late 1980s to do something else, but thanks to Richard Higgott, now the Vice Chancellor but then a senior lecturer, I was introduced to people and theories that remade my world,” Toby said.

“I owe a great debt to Richard and many other Murdoch people.

“Of my time at Murdoch, I recall the parties, the politics, the pubs, the sun and the surf, but most of all the ideas.”

After graduating, Toby (PhD in Philosophy and Communication Studies, 1992) taught at Murdoch, Queensland’s Griffith University and the University of New South Wales, before relocating overseas and teaching for a decade at New York University.

Toby then worked at the University of California before accepting the role of Professor of Politics and International Studies and Australian Professorial Fellow GARRY RODAN HAS REACHED THE HALFWAY POINT OF HIS FIVE-YEAR TENURE AS A FULL-TIME RESEARCHER FOR THE AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ARC).

Garry is working on two ARC-funded projects on South-East Asia. The first examines the politics of accountability reform, while the second investigates the expansion of non-democratic and democratic forms of political representation.

The former Director of the Asia Research Centre at Murdoch says his role is to demystify conflict to enable political differences and choices to be clarified rather than concealed.

“My work attempts to explain conflicts over how power is organised, the underlying reasons for contention and the competing interests and ideologies involved,” he said.

“Without understanding the nature of conflicts, and the factors likely to affect their outcome, choices about public policy, investment decisions or activist reform strategies are inadequately informed.”

Garry completed a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Social and Political Theory at Murdoch in 1979. His PhD with a thesis on the political economy of Singapore’s industrialisation was awarded in 1987. He has since worked in teaching and research roles at Murdoch.

“I was fortunate to have undertaken my Honours year and PhD at times when there was an especially talented and vibrant group of lecturers,” he said.

“My most inspiring and influential teacher was Richard Robison (now Emeritus Professor) who challenged me intellectually and was a supportive mentor.”

Garry received the Vice Chancellor’s Excellence in Research Award for Distinguished and Sustained Achievement in 2007. He has authored and edited ten books on Singapore and South-East Asia.

Distinguished researcher strives to demystify power conflicts in South-East Asia


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Mayor has faith in people power

THE CITY OF KWINANA IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA HAS FEW BETTER SERVANTS THAN MAYOR CAROL ADAMS (BACHELOR OF LAWS, 1997).

Ms Adams’ role is entirely focused on community needs, which includes providing leadership, strategic direction and planning for ratepayers.

“With exponential annual growth of nearly five per cent, there are many challenges, which include trying to cater for the needs of the changing demographics, providing modern community infrastructure and community wellbeing initiatives and encouraging economic development within the region,” she said.

Ms Adams was elected as a Councillor for the then Town of Kwinana in her third year at Murdoch.

“I had moved to Kwinana as a sole parent a few years earlier,” she said.

“However, my involvement in community-based activities had been limited until I joined a local ratepayer association.

“That experience showed me the true value of ‘people power’ and the need for any organisation to engage with its stakeholders in circumstances where their corporate decisions were going to impact on the day-to-day lives of the people who resided in a community.

“The City of Kwinana has a community engagement policy in an effort to be open and transparent in our decision making.

“True engagement is about communication and being open to compromise and listening to the views of the community.

“In saying that, there are some matters on which, by virtue of your position, you need to make decisions that will not be popular.

“In those circumstances, the reasoning behind such a decision should be clearly communicated to those affected.”

Historian chooses road not taken

NEVILLE GREEN (PHD, 2005) WAS LAST YEAR APPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (AM) FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY, NATIVE TITLE AND AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS HISTORY.

Neville left school at 14, and after six years in the Royal Australian Air Force, returned to studies in 1959 and graduated from Claremont Teachers College in Western Australia three years later.

Over the following 30 years, he accumulated five university degrees, including a Masters and two PhDs and authored and co-authored ten books, most with an Indigenous theme.

His teaching career included a decade at primary schools, another decade working with hearing impaired children and 18 years in tertiary education.

Neville's voluntary community service is spread across 50 years and includes kindergarten and school committees and intercultural and international networks.

His interest in Indigenous education and history stems from his teaching years at remote schools in the Western Desert and the Kimberley, and his interest in China comes from a year of teaching at the former Guangzhou Institute of Foreign Languages.

He is Secretary of Cottesloe RSL, National Vice President of the Australia China Friendship Society and is hoping to finish another book in 2013.

His attitude to history is to take the road not taken by other historians.

Through his work on Indigenous studies, he has tried to make Australians more familiar with Aboriginal history and culture.

“I have always tried to make a positive difference in community work – to do it and do it well,” he said.
Golden win at Telstra awards

WHEN BARRICK GOLD CORPORATION, THE WORLD’S LEADING GOLD PRODUCER, WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO LEAD A TEAM OF 700 PEOPLE AT THE GRANNY SMITH GOLD MINE NEAR KALGOORLIE, THEY DECIDED JULIE SHUTTLEWORTH WAS A SAFE PAIR OF HANDS.

Julie (Bachelor of Science [Extractive Metallurgy and Chemistry], 1994) had all the credentials, having previously been General Manager of Barrick’s Buzwagi Gold Project in Tanzania, a mine site with 2000 employees, which she had taken from feasibility study to operating mine.

The 2007 Telstra WA Young Businesswoman of the Year and 2012 Telstra Western Australian Business Woman of the Year also led the development of an engineering innovation with international potential for the safety of mineworkers.

Julie sees her work as much more than extracting ore.

“My biggest rewards come from having a positive impact on the communities around the mines where I work, and from contributing to the development and career advancement of other people,” she said.

“Many mining companies, including Barrick, are very focused on good corporate social responsibility.”

While working with Barrick in Tanzania confirmed the importance of contributing in a positive manner to communities, Julie said Murdoch’s culture of respect and diversity laid the groundwork for her philosophy.

“My studies at Murdoch gave me a solid grounding required for my career,” she said.

A beacon of innovative teaching

RICHARD SIDHARTA [GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PRIMARY EDUCATION, 2003] IS A BEACON OF INNOVATIVE TEACHING FOR INDONESIAN STUDENTS.

Through his Beacon Academy, which he started in 2008, Mr Sidharta is providing the opportunity for Indonesian families to gain a sound education for their children outside the traditional schooling strictures.

After gaining his qualifications at Murdoch, the inspiring educator returned to Indonesia and landed a primary teaching position in a top international school.

With the opportunity five years later to start his own school, Beacon Academy had humble beginnings with 23 students in Primary 1 in a refurbished warehouse.

“Being the first school to combine the International Primary Curriculum and Cambridge Primary, students were gaining their knowledge, skills and understanding in a rigorous and fun way,” he said.

“Beacon Academy immediately stood out as an educational institution of choice for parents who wanted something creative and different for their children.”

Over five years, the Academy has continued to invest in quality teachers and has raised the ‘learning bar’. Students at the Academy are known in the community as being the most thoughtful and knowledgeable, as learners are fully immersed in the connectedness of their learning with the world around them.

“After five years, we have grown to 115 students across Years 1–5,” Mr Sidharta said.

“We have started building our new purpose-built campus, able to accommodate up to 1000 students, which will be ready in August 2013.”
A lifelong passion for art

PASSIONATE AND ENDURING ARE TWO FITTING WORDS TO DESCRIBE CHRIS HILL’S MULTIFACETED RELATIONSHIP WITH MURDOCH UNIVERSITY.

Like many of our alumni, Chris’s connection with Murdoch has continued to grow since he completed his studies. However, his initial introduction to Murdoch was as a Library staff member in the mid 1980s. During that time he served as a volunteer on the University’s Art Acquisitions Committee and was responsible for purchasing and caring for the Art Collection before there was an art curator.

After retiring from librarianship, Chris launched a small business in Fremantle, importing Balinese handicrafts. On his frequent visits to Bali, he became friends with several traditional painters and started collecting their work. He decided to pursue his passion for Balinese art by studying at Murdoch, where he was supervised by Associate Professor Carol Warren.


Chris is a passionate collector of contemporary Australian art, and because of this, was invited to join Murdoch’s Art Board in 1993. Chris was a member of the Board until 2010, serving as its Chair from 2007 to 2010. During this time, Chris dedicated considerable time to assisting Murdoch’s art curator, Mark Stewart, in building the Murdoch University Art Collection into a culturally significant holding of contemporary art to be enjoyed by future generations of students, staff and the broader community.

When Chris retired from the Art Board, he accepted an invitation to become a member of the University’s Banksia Association.

Recently, Chris has been involved in various curatorial activities. In 2010, he co-curated Fremantle Arts Centre (FAC)’s hugely successful exhibition Home Open – Fremantle Artists and their Collections.

Currently, he is developing another exhibition for FAC for early 2014, which showcases contemporary Balinese art and Australian artists with a Balinese connection.

Mark Stewart
Murdoch University
Art Curator

A Balinese connection.

Founded in 2001, Cordlife Group Limited is the longest operating cord blood bank in Singapore and is a leading service provider of stem cell banking from cord blood (Singapore and Hong Kong) and the umbilical cord (Hong Kong).

Mr Yee said cord blood stem cells were increasingly being used with positive results in the treatment of both malignant and non-malignant disorders.

“With the rapid development in ongoing clinical trials, stem cells from both cord blood and umbilical cord may soon provide advanced treatment and disease repair for many patients who are afflicted with chronic conditions that were once considered untreatable,” he said.

Success stories include saving the life of a gravely ill three-year-old boy with leukaemia, after the harvesting of his baby sister’s umbilical cord blood.

Mr Yee said his Murdoch degree gave him the confidence and technical knowledge to make a myriad of major decisions, many of which had both accounting and financial impacts on the company.

“One comes to realise that understanding the substance behind every decision made using tools and techniques taught during the course will result in better planning and control of resources,” he said.

Mr Yee has recently been appointed a non-executive independent director of China Cord Blood Corporation, the largest cord blood banking operator in China in terms of geographical coverage.

Cord blood saves lives

WITH MORE THAN 40,000 FAMILIES ENTRUSTING THEIR BABY’S CORD BLOOD TO CORDLIFE GROUP LIMITED, CEO JEREMY YEE (BACHELOR OF COMMERCE [PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING], 2009) HAS A ROLE WITH FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITIES IN SINGAPORE, HONG KONG AND BEYOND.

Mr Yee has recently been appointed a non-executive independent director of China Cord Blood Corporation, the largest cord blood banking operator in China in terms of geographical coverage.
Sodium-ion battery gains worldwide attention

WHEN DR MANICKAM MINAKSHI RELEASED HIS RESEARCH INTO A NEW BATTERY FOR GREEN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES SUCH AS SOLAR AND WIND POWER, HE HAD NO IDEA THE GROUNDSWELL OF MEDIA INTEREST IT WOULD RAISE AROUND THE WORLD.

Now, six months later, he and collaborator Dr Danielle Meyrick (Bachelor of Science (Hons), 2000, PhD, 2005) from Murdoch’s School of Veterinary and Life Sciences are sifting through offers from companies in Australia, the USA, the UK, Denmark, Italy and more who are looking to get involved.

“People have been very enthusiastic. We’ve had technology companies from around the world inquire about our research. We’ve narrowed interest down to two or three who we’re in negotiations with,” Manickam said.

The new battery technology features a sodium solution with a manganese dioxide cathode and a novel olivine sodium phosphate anode – representing a cost-effective alternative to lithium-based batteries.

To top off his great year, in late 2012, Manickam was named as one of only 16 recipients of an Early Career Australia-India Fellowship from the Australian Academy of Science. The Fellowship will see him work with the Indian Institute of Science and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in 2013, both top-tier research organisations.

“To have the sodium-ion battery recognised with such a prestigious Fellowship is yet more evidence of the scientific community’s confidence in our research,” Manickam said.
Vietnam vets reunite through gym

THE MURDOCH UNIVERSITY SPORTS CENTRE IS PROUD TO HAVE HAD A SMALL GROUP OF VIETNAM VETERANS AS REGULAR USERS OF THE GYM FOR NEARLY TEN YEARS.

The men were prompted to start their journey towards better health back in 2003 by wives concerned about their health and, in one case, a daughter remarking that she would like her father to be around to watch his grandkids grow up.

“When we first began, it was like a reunion. Many of us had known of one another in the past, but years, even decades, had passed before we reconnected in the Heart-Health Program,” said one veteran.

“Most importantly, it’s the camaraderie we’ve reformed by meeting at the gym every Tuesday and Thursday morning.

“We’ve lived a dark past, and for years isolated ourselves, so the regular gym and coffee meetings, which usually involve a bit of banter, are very beneficial to our health, as many of us have, or have had, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.

“If one of us doesn’t show up, there is always a phone call to check up on them.”

This solid group of life-long friends are well known at the on-campus Zone Fitness Centre by members and staff, who brace themselves for the influx of humour that can be heard rising from the stairs as the veterans come in for their workouts.

“Having a good chat with the vets and exchanging jokes with them every Thursday morning is one of the highlights of my early morning gym shift every week,” said one staff member.
Farewell to Biochem’s dynamic duo

AS TWO OF MURDOCH’S MOST OUTSTANDING TEACHERS AND ACADEMICS, BOB MEAD AND MAX CAKE ARE HARDLY THE RETIRING TYPES.

Yet retiring is what they are both doing. The decision brings to an end not only the careers of two towering educators, but also closes a chapter on a personal and professional friendship spanning decades.

The dynamic duo has been responsible for most of the biochemistry teaching at the University for over 30 years. Along the way they have earned formidable teaching reputations.

Professor Mead has received the Vice Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award for General Teaching Excellence on three occasions.

Professor Cake has also been awarded a Vice Chancellor’s Award for General Teaching Excellence, as well as a Vice Chancellor’s Citation for Excellence in Enhancing Learning and a National Australian Learning and Teaching Council Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning.

Professor Mead has acknowledged the effect on his own style and methodology of his friend and colleague. “I have tried to emulate Max’s outstanding approach, and I attribute much of my success in winning teaching awards to the example he has set,” he said.

Professor Cake rates Professor Mead highly as well. “I would rate him second to none as an undergraduate teacher in the Biosciences at Murdoch University,” he said.

Professor Mead has a passion for propagating science to the general community through the media and enjoys stimulating an interest in science in gifted young school students through regular participation in the Science Summer School at Murdoch.

Professor Cake sees Murdoch University as very much a ‘community of scholars’.

“It is this aspect that I have particularly enjoyed during my 34 years at the University,” he said.

“Regular student interaction and engagement has been central to my teaching strategy, and I have always endeavoured to be aware of the needs and career aspirations of each student.”
FREMANTLE’S COLOURFUL PAST REVEALED

FORMER CHANCELLOR EMERITUS PROFESSOR GEOFFREY BOLTON HAS HELPED STEER A NEW BOOK ON FREMANTLE STRAIGHT TO THE 2012 WA LOCAL HISTORY AWARD.

Edited by Geoffrey and former Murdoch researcher Dr Paul Arthur (Bachelor of Arts, 1994), Voices from the West End explores the stories, people and events that shaped the port city. These include brushes with Bubonic Plague, the city’s reputation as a ‘hanging town’ and its ultimate evolution into a tourist destination.

Geoffrey said he and Paul were happy to have a number of Murdoch academics and alumni as contributors, including Emeritus Professor Bob Reece, Associate Professor Rowan Strong, Emeritus Associate Professor Jim Macbeth and Professor Malcolm Tull.

“We launched the collection and almost immediately were informed that we had won for best publication at the history awards. It was certainly a nice outcome,” Geoffrey said.

The book was published by WA Museum, whose Chief Executive Alec Coles called the book ‘the most important history of Fremantle written in the past 60 years’.

With Voices in print, Geoffrey has turned his attention to finishing his substantial biography on another pillar of WA history, former Governor General Sir Paul Hasluck.


A FUTURE FOR OUR ECCLESIASTICAL PAST?

CHURCH.HISTORY@WHYBOTHER? WAS WRITTEN BY DR PETER ELLIOTT, ALUMNUS AND CURRENT STAFF MEMBER AT MURDOCH UNIVERSITY. THE BOOK TACKLES QUESTIONS SUCH AS ‘WHAT IS THE POINT OF STUDYING CHURCH HISTORY?’ AND ‘HOW CAN THINGS THAT HAPPENED SO LONG AGO BE RELEVANT TO LIFE TODAY?’ THE BOOK AIMS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE PAST PERPETUALLY INFORMS THE PRESENT.

Peter became a Christian during a visit to Israel in 1981. Since then, he has spent his time writing, fundraising and lecturing in Bible colleges and theological seminaries.

Written as an email dialogue between a church history lecturer and an antagonistic student, the book touches on many key events in the history of the Christian church and claims that unless we understand the past, we will struggle to understand our identity in the present and planning for the future will become an exercise in futility.

The study of church history emerges as an essential tool for those wishing to understand, care for and participate in the church of the 21st century.

Peter (Bachelor of Divinity, 1997, Master of Theology (Hons), 2002, PhD Theology, 2010) is currently the Acting Manager of Development at Murdoch.

Church.History@WhyBother? was published by Morling Press in October 2012.
A HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN PUBLISHING


“The book was completed during the birth of our first two boys. As I worked from home, my partner and I described this period as either raising children in an office or writing a book in a daycare centre,” said author Jason Ensor.

The book provides a unique look into the history of Australia’s largest publisher, Angus & Robertson, and its role in the development of Australia’s export book trade.

Jason said he hoped that the book would provide an engaging history of publishers’ responsibilities to a national literary tradition and to the obligation to survive financially in a constantly changing world of global commercial publishing and bookselling – issues which are as paramount today as they were a century ago.

Jason was awarded a PhD in Communication Studies from Murdoch in 2011. Angus & Robertson and the British Trade in Australian Books, 1930 – 1970 was published by Anthem Press in December 2012.

SUBURBA UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

MURDOCH ALUMNUS IRIS LAVELL’S FIRST NOVEL, ELSEWHERE IN SUCCESS, HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS ‘A BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN ACCOUNT OF ORDINARY SUBURBAN LIVES LIVED IN FLUX, PAIN AND HOPE’ BY LEADING WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FICTION WRITER AND FELLOW ALUMNUS (PHD 2002) DR CHRIS MCLEOD. THIS PRAISE IS UNSURPRISING AS IRIS IS AN ACCOMPLISHED WRITER, HAVING ALREADY WRITTEN NUMEROUS ONE-ACT PLAYS, SHORT STORIES AND POEMS.

Elsewhere in Success is the story of a seemingly ordinary couple, Harry and Louisa, who live in the Perth suburb of Success; but upon closer examination, still waters run deep.

As well as her literary background (Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Theatre and Drama Studies, 1999, PhD in English and Comparative Literature, 2005), Iris has worked for many years as a psychologist.

She describes the book as a story about the courage of two very ordinary people trying to find some sort of meaning in their lives after a breakdown of trust.

“The story owes a debt to all those who have shared their insights with me over the years, both in my work as a psychologist and outside of that work as well,” Iris said.

Elsewhere in Success was published by Fremantle Press in February.

AUSSIE ICON CELEBRATED IN NEW BOOK

MOST AUSTRALIANS HAVE AN OPINION ON WHETHER IS IT ACCEPTABLE TO CULL OUR NATIONAL ANIMAL EMBLEM, BUT FINALLY HERE IS A BOOK THAT WILL ADD SOME FACTS TO THE DEBATE.

Australia’s Amazing Kangaroos is an authoritative source of information on all 50 species of the kangaroo family living in Australia.

Associate Professor Ken Richardson was inspired to write the book as a way to share information that is usually locked away in scientific papers.

“The conservation of kangaroos and sustainable harvesting are very emotive issues and it is important for people to have access to the facts,” he said.

“I hope this book helps to bridge the gap between the scientific community and the public.”

Illustrated with beautiful colour photography, Australia’s Amazing Kangaroos will help readers to distinguish potoroos from pademelons and quokkas from kangaroos.

The book includes information about species characteristics and biology, adaptations and function and conservation.

Culling and the commercial kangaroo harvest, as well as national attitudes to kangaroos and their value for tourism, are also discussed.

Australia’s Amazing Kangaroos has been produced by CSIRO Publishing and is available in paperback or e-book format.

www.publish.csiro.au/eBooks
INSIGHT INTO GLOBAL POVERTY FROM OXFAM CHAIR

GRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE NEW SIR WALTER MURDOCH SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ARE GAINING FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STRATEGIES TO COMBAT GLOBAL POVERTY THIS YEAR.

Dr Jane Hutchison (Bachelor of Arts (Hons) [Politics, Philosophy and Sociology], 1984, PhD [Politics], 2005) is the Chair of the Oxfam Australia Board and is lecturing at Murdoch’s newest graduate school.

“Oxfam is a leading rights-based international development NGO with a vision of ‘a just world without poverty’,” said Jane.

“It has a rights-based approach to development that combines humanitarian relief, sustainable development and campaigning and advocacy.

“Current Oxfam campaigns include the international Grow campaign directed at the deep injustices in the way the food system works and, in this country, participation in the Close the Gap campaign to improve the health of Indigenous Australians.”

Jane is also a Fellow in Murdoch University’s Asia Research Centre, and her research focuses on social and political change in the Philippines, especially with respect to labour and urban poverty.

She is presently researching the political economy of development effectness and the politics of poor people’s responses to aid programs in the Philippines and is co-writing a book, Political Economy and the Aid Industry in Asia, for release in 2013.

Jane will teach in the new Master of Development Studies units ‘Politics of Development’ and ‘Gender and Development’.

http://www.murdoch.edu.au/sirwalterschool/

PROFESSOR MARK RAPLEY


Though he left Murdoch to become Professor of Clinical Psychology and Director of the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology at the University of East London, his legacy in, and ties with, Western Australia remain strong.

Mark is remembered as an inspiring teacher, friend, colleague and passionate advocate for intellectual disability and mental health issues.

“Dear Mark was a scintillating colleague and charismatic teacher. He influenced so many of our students with his zeal for community psychology – changing the community to benefit individuals,” said Murdoch Professor Laurence Hartley.

“He will be long remembered as a warm and stimulating colleague who went on to great achievements as Professor of Psychology in the UK.”

One of Mark’s achievements was contributing to critical thinking about mental illness in WA. His teaching inspired much of the passion and courage at the foundation of the Hearing Voices Network Australia, which supports people who hear distressing voices.

Former Murdoch student Lyn Mahboub, now Manager of the Hearing Voices Network, Richmond Fellowship WA, said she owed a great deal to Mark both personally and professionally.

“His passion lives on today in our work sharing the Hearing Voices Approach. Mark’s students are dotted around Australia and his legacy lives on through us all.”

The University expresses its deepest sympathy to Mark’s daughter, Ella, and his family.

To read about how Mark impacted his students, see Rowan Logie’s piece online at http://staffnews.murdoch.edu.au/remembering-mark-rapley/
New Senate Member Chris Evans Joins Anna George in 2013

January 2013 saw the end of Dr Lyndy Scott’s three-year term and welcomed a new Convocation Representative on Senate, Chris Evans.

Chris joins fellow Murdoch alumnus Dr Anna George (Bachelor of Economics, 1987), whose three-year term commenced on January 1, 2012.

Since graduating from Murdoch with a Bachelor of Commerce in 2003, Chris has worked in various sectors, including oil and gas, resources and education.

Currently employed as Director and Chief Operating Officer with Oil and Gas Solutions, and heavily involved with numerous charities, Chris is passionate about alumni engagement with both industry and volunteer organisations.

“The University must constantly strive to improve programs, initiatives and alliances that advance the professional opportunities that students and alumni are afforded as a direct result of having attended the institution,” he said.

Dr George is Murdoch’s first graduate to be appointed as an Australian ambassador and was also a multilateral negotiator with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (1988–2006).

As a Senate member and in her work related to global health security issues, she has a particular interest in the quality and effectiveness of governance.

“All universities are struggling to adapt to the current political, economic and global environment. A priority is adapting governance policy and practice to address these challenges,” she said.

Murdoch University’s Alumni Relations Team wishes Chris and Anna all the best for their terms, and would like to thank outgoing Senate member Dr Lyndy Scott for her work on Senate during her term.

Interested alumni can find out more about the role of Convocation and Senate on the Murdoch website http://senate.murdoch.edu.au/

Alumni Scholarship to Help Deserving Students

Murdoch University Alumni Relations is delighted to announce the establishment of the Murdoch University Alumni Annual Appeal Scholarship.

The scholarship, valued at $2,000, was established with the generous support of the Murdoch University alumni community through the Alumni Annual Appeal. The scholarship will support a Murdoch University student who is in the final stages of their degree, is achieving good academic results and may be in need of financial assistance.

Every year, for the past three years, Alumni Relations has asked, via email and post, for donations towards student aid; and Murdoch University alumni have responded generously. The 2012 Annual Appeal featured a letter from a current Murdoch student, Glenys Butler, and her story of finding love on the Serengeti.

Glenys’ story touched many hearts and, through the generosity of new and repeat donors, the University is now in a position to create a dedicated ongoing scholarship named in honour of the alumni community.

Applications for the inaugural scholarship opened in February 2013 and the successful recipient will be announced at a special awards ceremony in April 2013.

The Alumni Annual Appeal will be held again this year in June and all money raised will go towards supporting the scholarship.

To find out more or apply for the scholarship, visit http://our.murdoch.edu.au/Student-life/Finances/Undergrad-scholarships/Alumni/

Alumni tell their stories

**Bruce A. Felix**  
(BACHELOR OF SCIENCE [BIOLOGY], 1985)  
A lot has happened since graduating in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science. My degree was being done part-time while I worked with ICI Australia (now Orica), and I thought I would be just a few years with them. Twenty years later, I had built marketing and distribution networks for them and then went on to be Export Manager of Dulux, looking after Asia and the Pacific. By 2000, I had had enough of corporate life and went out on my own into winery supplies. My company, still going after selling out in 2005, is based in Melbourne. I have since moved to Oregon, USA and am making wine, as well as importing machinery, barrels and chemicals for the wine industry here. I am married to a wonderful woman (who part-time lectured at Murdoch) and have three grown up kids and one granddaughter.

**Martin O’Sullivan**  
(BACHELOR OF SCIENCE [HONS] [BIOTECHNOLOGY], 1993)  
I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1991, worked as a researcher in Sydney and then returned to Murdoch to complete my Honours in 1993. Following that, I entered the patent attorney profession in Perth and spent 13 years or so with a large firm (reaching the level of Partner), during which time I also completed an MBA. In 2006, I co-founded an IP commercialisation consulting/advisory firm and in 2008 established my own patent attorney practice. Over that time, I also got married and now have three sons who are ten, eight and five. I enjoyed my time at Murdoch, and what I learnt there formed the foundation of my entire professional career.

**Kathryn Sturrock**  
(BACHELOR OF ARTS [POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIOLOGY], 1991)  
After graduating in 1991, I went to The University of Western Australia and gained a Postgraduate Bachelor of Arts in Social Work in 1993 and then worked mostly in psychiatry. For the past two years, I have worked four days a week. In 2008 I studied to become a Civil Marriage Celebrant and started my own business about two years ago. My main interests are my family, travel, gardening and Toastmasters.

**Michelle Borserio**  
(BACHELOR OF COMMERCE, 1991)  
I graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1991 and went on to work in marketing at an accounting software company, then a home automation company in Perth. After extensive travel, I landed in Edinburgh and worked in communications at Capability Scotland (a disability organisation). Since returning to Perth, getting married and having children (11 and nine years old), I have been enjoying my working time at Emmanuel Catholic College as Executive Assistant to the Principal/Marketing. I definitely attribute all of my working opportunities to my time at Murdoch University and my Commerce degree. I would love to be in contact with others from my year group.

**Panner Dharmalingam**  
(BACHELOR OF ARTS [POLITICS AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES], 1995)  
Currently, I am working as a Development Manager of the Environmental Endeavour 2 (EE2) Office (http://endeavour.newri.ntu.edu.sg/), a member of the Nanyang Environment and Water Research Institute, or NEWRI (http://www.ntu.edu.sg/newri) ecosystem. Our focus is on developing communities in South-East Asia, South Asia and China in the areas of clean water, sanitation, renewable energy and waste/wastewater management. Currently, we have projects in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. I personally have seven projects in six countries – Indonesia, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Next year, I am planning to expand the program to Bhutan, Thailand, the Philippines and Mongolia.

Besides the core duties of project portfolio, I also oversee and involve myself in developing strategic relationships with key partners in these countries. They include government ministers, governors, government officials and community leaders. For a photo montage of our project sites, visit our Facebook account at ee2facebook. More details on our current projects can be found on our website at http://endeavour.newri.ntu.edu.sg.

**Kelly Paris**  
As a young teenage mother, I began at Murdoch in 1999 working towards a General Arts degree, before switching to English in 2000 in the hopes of cracking into journalism. I graduated in 2002, and when things didn’t go quite according to ‘The Big Plan in My Head’, began a Graduate Diploma in Education, which I finished in 2004. After working as a high school English teacher for seven years, I began a Postgraduate Certificate in Gifted and Talented Education in 2011 and have recently completed my Master of Education. All of my tertiary qualifications have been done through Murdoch – I wouldn’t go anywhere else. I’m now in charge of the English department at the brand new Baldiws Secondary College and am moving from strength to strength!

**Alvin Ng**  
(BACHELOR OF PSYCHOLOGY, 1998, DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY), 2002)  
I began my career as a part-time lecturer at Tunku Abdul Rahman College, Kuala Lumpur, from 2001 to 2002 and then as a lecturer at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (National University of Malaysia) from 2002 until the present. I am now an Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology and on unpaid leave since April 2012 to work as the Director of Shine Guidance Centre in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, a multidisciplinary centre that I helped set up to cater for families living with special needs and mental health issues. I also established the Malaysian Society of Clinical Psychology in 2010 and am the Founding President. In 2011, I was a finalist for the Inaugural Murdoch University Distinguished Alumni Awards. I’m very grateful to Murdoch University for my training and personal development, as well as for the recognition given to me. My years at Murdoch helped prepare me well for my current career.

**Alicia Mule**  
(BACHELOR OF COMMUNICATIONS [MEDIA STUDIES], 2004)  
After working in Perth radio for several years, I combined my years on the Murdoch University campus with the family business to enhance student experiences across Australia! My parents started Aroma Cafe in 1996 and I begged them to enter the university market by opening their first education outlet at Murdoch. Luckily it ended up being really popular (not just amongst my own friends), and seeing the potential for growth, I joined the family business full time. We now have 52 stores across WA, SA and VIC and our first QLD cafe is opening at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane in February 2013.
Clare McKay  
(Bachelor of Science (Hons), 2005)  
I graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Molecular Biology and Biomedicine. I did not need to learn a new layout for my first job, as I started working in veterinary pathology at Murdoch. After a year, I moved on to Ozgene, where I worked for four years, starting off as a Research Assistant before becoming the genotyping coordinator. I then decided that I wanted a different lifestyle, so went back to university, where I am currently completing my Master of Medical Radiations (at Monash). I will qualify as a radiation therapist in mid 2013.

Andrew Winzer  
(PhD Marine Science, 2007)  
I worked for the Western Rock Lobster Council from 2007 to 2009 as Project Manager for the industry peak body. Since 2009, I have been with Fortescue Metals Group as a Senior Approvals Advisor. I manage ongoing and expansion approvals for Port Hedland’s Inner and Outer Harbour. This involves overseeing baseline studies, e.g. terrestrial flora and fauna surveys, marine fauna surveys, benthic habitat surveys, noise and dust modelling, sediment plume models, geophysical surveys, geotechnical surveys, conducting impact assessments and liaising with key stakeholders (government and community). In order to compile the raft of information required to satisfy the approvals process, I work in tandem with engineers, geologists, metallurgists, hydrogeologists and traditional owners, which makes for an extremely challenging role.

I have also worked in the field of exploration and mining approvals, which is an entirely different challenge. I consider myself fortunate to be working in the mining industry, however I intend to take on a similar role in the oil and gas industry at some stage in the future.

Adrian Carroll  
(Bachelor of Commerce, 2008)  
I graduated from Murdoch University in 2008 after completing a Bachelor of Commerce [Marketing Management]. I joined Landgate as part of their Graduate Development Program in 2008. I have worked in various areas since then, including valuation services, registrations, commercial services and consultancy and product management. I’m now back working in valuation services and looking forward to studying a Master of Property next year to become a Valuer.

Vikas Marimuthu Saraswathi  
(Master of Science [Information Technology], 2010, Graduate Diploma, 2010)  
I graduated in 2010 with a Master of Network Management and Security and am now working as a Security Engineer at Symantec Corporation in India, providing network security to more than 100 Fortune 500 companies.

Rob Da Re  
(Bachelor of Science, 2010)  
My degree from Murdoch gave me a qualification, experience and knowledge of network security. Thanks to Murdoch, I will never forget my time in Perth. I studied BCompSci – Internetworking and Security and a Cyber Forensics Minor. Since then, I have worked for a Melbourne-based IT consulting company and have won contracts with John Deere, Lexus, Ford, Mitsubishi, mining companies and health companies to manage their networks and computer systems. In April 2012, I purchased a cloud backup business and integrated it into my consulting side, took on a full-time employee and subcontractors and moved into an office in Balcatta.

Azlan Mohamed Noh  
(Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Mass Communication, 2011)  
I graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Mass Communication. In professional service industries such as law, students nearing the end of their degrees will often undertake vacation work at private law firms or governmental organisations during their winter and summer breaks. I was no different. After completing one of those short-term positions with the commercial firm Middletons, I was able to secure a graduate position there in June, 2010. I then graduated at the end of 2010 and commenced my graduate position with Middletons in March, 2011. After rotating through Middletons’ disputes and corporate practice groups, I eventually embarked upon a career as a lawyer within Middletons’ corporate group.

I have kept in touch with my former lecturers at the School of Law. I have even acted twice as a coach for students participating in a debating (moot) competition about international law. I can confidently say that the calibre of the students coming through Murdoch never ceases to amaze.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Murdoch. The lecturers in both the Law and Mass Communication disciplines not only taught me how to find the right answers, but to ask the right questions. Being a relatively small University, I got to know each lecturer on a personal level, and this further enhanced my university experience. Murdoch University receives my utmost recommendation.

Kadir Ayvildiz  
(Master of Science [Information Technology], 2012)  
I was born in Istanbul, one of the most mysterious places on Earth. After graduating as a computer engineer in 2006, I decided to change my life and moved to Australia, land of peace. Even though I had heard of the beauty of Australia, I came to admire this beautiful country. I studied Business Advertising and Marketing at Cambridge International College. In 2009, I joined Murdoch University, recently graduating with a Master of Science in IT. Now I am looking for new opportunities in Australia. In my private life, things have changed rapidly. I met a Taiwanese girl, unexpectedly, and quickly fell in love with her, and we now have a sweet baby.

Eileen Wong Mei Juan  
(Bachelor of Commerce, 2012)  
After graduating from Murdoch University, I co-founded the company Booxify, a subscription box service in Singapore. The concept of Booxify is to revolutionise the way products are being introduced to consumers. This is a new arm in the marketing industry. I’m very happy to know that I have been able to apply what I learned at Murdoch almost immediately to my business.

We’d love to know what you’ve been doing since graduation. Send us your story: alumni@murdoch.edu.au
ALUMNI CONTACTS

If you’re a graduate of Murdoch University in any degree, diploma or certificate then you are one of our wonderful alumni! Chances are that wherever life has taken you, you’ll find fellow Murdochians somewhere nearby! Our groups and chapters would love to hear from you. If none of the groups below is close or suits your interests you might like to consider starting one yourself – and we are here to help! Alumni Relations can assist with contacting alumni in your area or from an old sporting group or even from the School or degree you studied in.

For more information, see our website at http://ace.murdoch.edu.au/chapterswindow.html

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